


NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: August YEAR: 2012
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Corey Loveland Service Hydrologist
DATE: September 11, 2012	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	


An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Overview

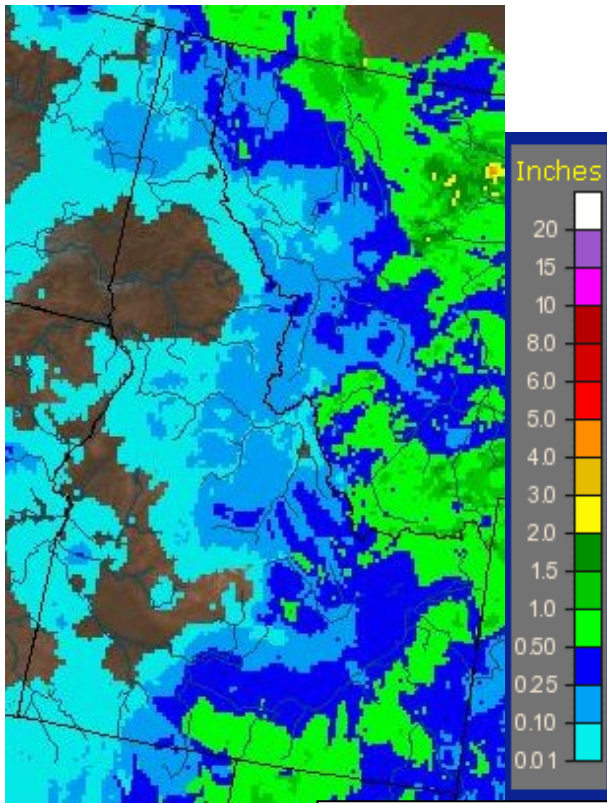
The entire month of August continued the trend of warmer temperatures with even much drier soil and vegetation conditions throughout the Hydrologic Service Area. Some precipitation fell within the HSA, but primarily within the mountain ranges south and east of the Snake River plain. Of the data available for the month, the highest 24-hour rainfall total was 0.57 inch on the 27th in Richfield; and we rose to 100 degree temperatures in Pocatello, Fort Hall and Shoshone on the 5th, 8th and 9th (hottest days of the year).

Again this past month, reservoir storages dropped significantly (which most followed the trend in total amount reduced as capacity from last month as a percent change). During August, approximately 605,000 acre-feet of combined storage in the upper Snake River basin was lost either through evaporation or discharged through planned releases to make room for winter storage. Overall, the basin has also decreased 15% in storage capacity (47% to 32%) through the past month (refer to dramatic graph below comparing current WY to last year storage). Therefore, reservoir storage across the HSA continues to fall quite rapidly. Monthly average streamflow has decreased significantly as would be expected during the brunt of the summer.

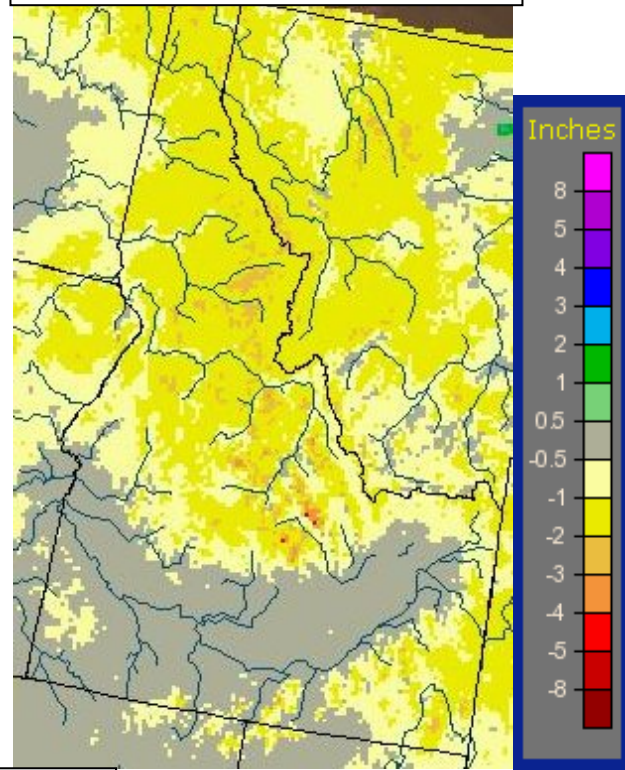
Drought conditions and fires continue to be the issues at hand and topics of discussion. Temperatures have begun to decrease and the one-month outlook shows a reduction to about 40 percent chance of above normal temperatures. The precipitation outlook indicates an equal chance of normal conditions. It seems as though relief from the fires will occur when the snow season begins which also brings lower temperatures and slightly higher humidity. The current U.S. Drought Monitor has strengthened the intensity of practically all of eastern Idaho to be in the D1 (Moderate) category, with the extreme southeastern part being in the Severe category. The state (IDWR and Governor) has announced to add Lemhi County to the list of emergency drought declarations, (see below). Currently, there are two major fires burning within the HSA (Halstead and Mustang Complex) and continue to burn for the time being.

Precipitation:

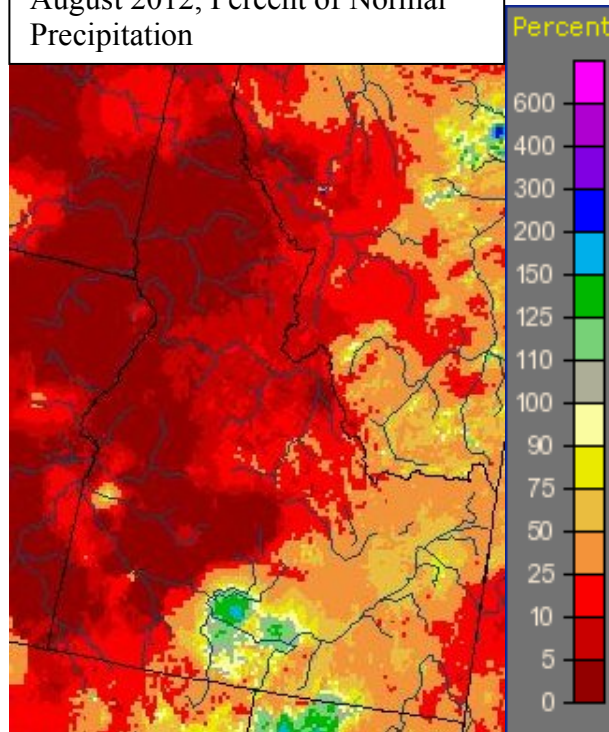
August 2012, Observed Precipitation



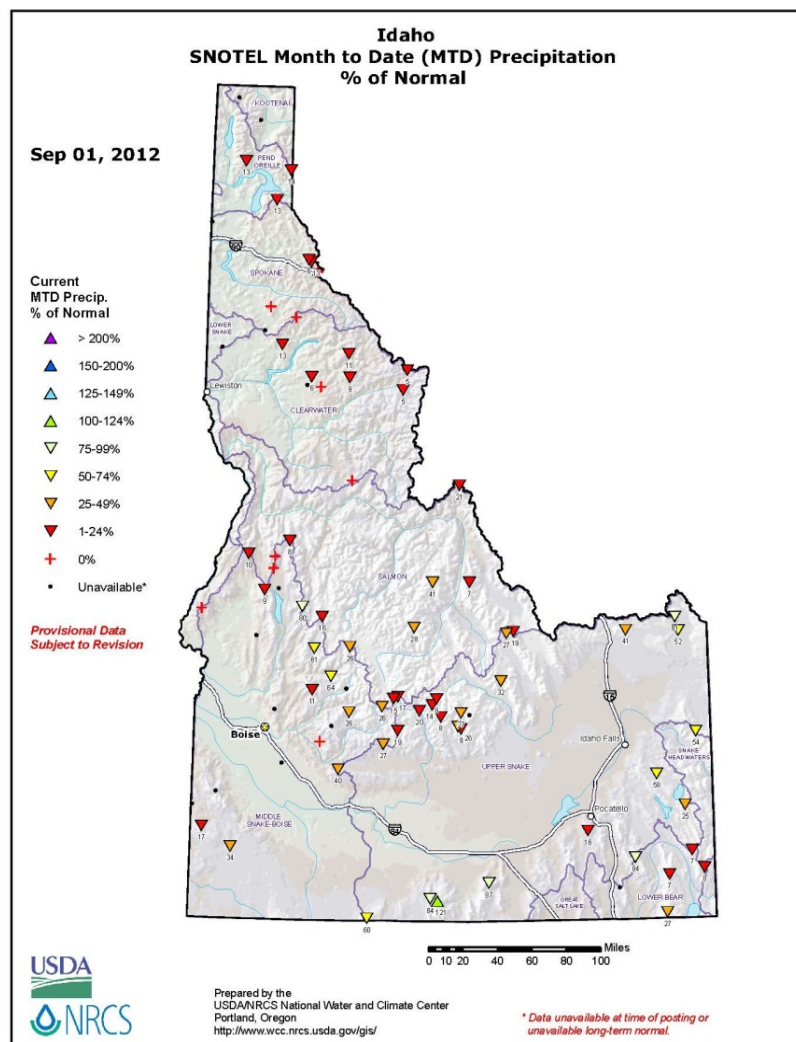
August 2012, Departure from Normal Precipitation



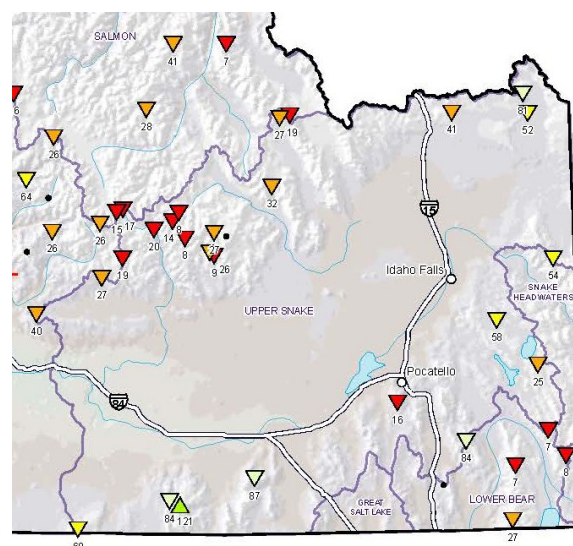
August 2012, Percent of Normal Precipitation



<http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php>



SNOTEL MTD % of Normal
Precipitation for end of August 2012
(image below is cropped from left image)



ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/1stmonth/id/prec/id_mtdprecptnormal_Sep.pdf

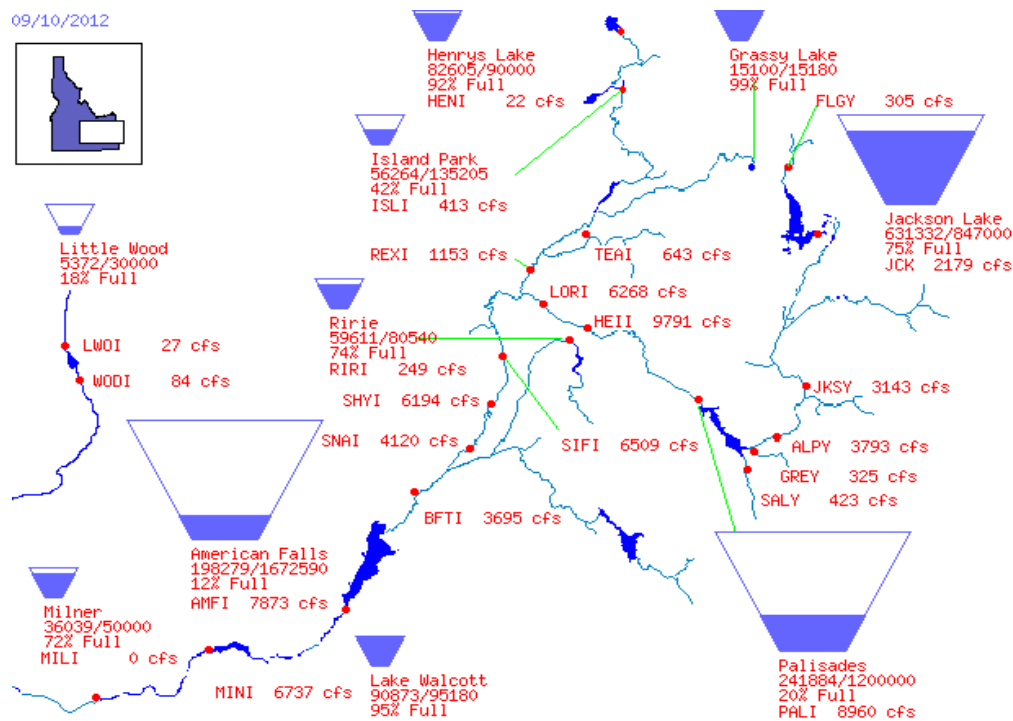
Reservoirs:

Reservoir	% Capacity July 31 ¹	% Capacity Aug 31 ²	Percent Change	% of Average ²	% of Last Year ²
Henry's Lake	93	91	-2	106	97
Island Park	70	44	-26	81	46
Palisades	69	38	-31	53	39
Ririe	93	80	-13	111	84
Blackfoot	75	63	-12	104	77
American Falls	29	14	-15	36	19
Bear Lake	72	66	-6	93	76
Magic	71	47	-24	108	69
Little Wood	53	22	-31	75	37
Mackay	72	48	-24	214	61
Oakley	31	24	-7	74	51
Lake Walcott	96 ³	95 ⁴	-1	n/a	n/a
Milner	77 ³	72 ⁴	-5	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS July 31, 2012; (2) NRCS August 31, 2012.
 (3) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) July 5, 2012 (4) BOR August 15, 2012

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/basin_reports/idaho/wy2012/bareid8.txt

09/10/2012

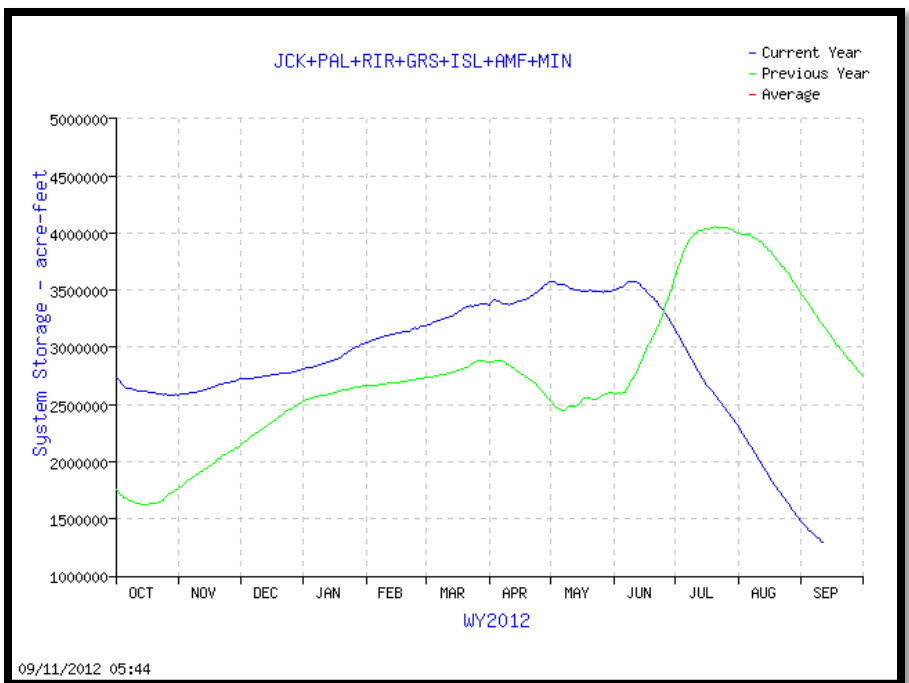


**32% of Capacity
in Upper Snake
River System**
 (Jackson Lake, Palisades,
 Grassy Lake, Island Park,
 Ririe, American Falls &
 Lake Walcott)

Upper Snake River:
Total Space Available: 2,752,348 AF
Total Storage Capacity: 4,045,695 AF

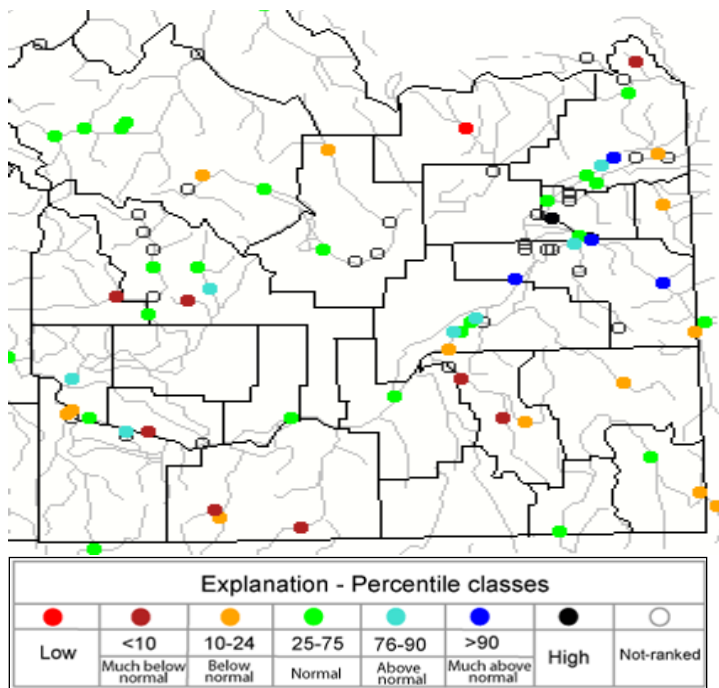
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.cfm>

Graph of Upper Snake River Current Total System Reservoir Storage



http://www.usbr.gov/pn-bin/graphwy2.pl?snasys_af

Streamflow:



Monthly average streamflow compared to historical average streamflow for August 2012.



<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=mv01d&r=id&w=map>

Drought Information:

U.S. Drought Monitor

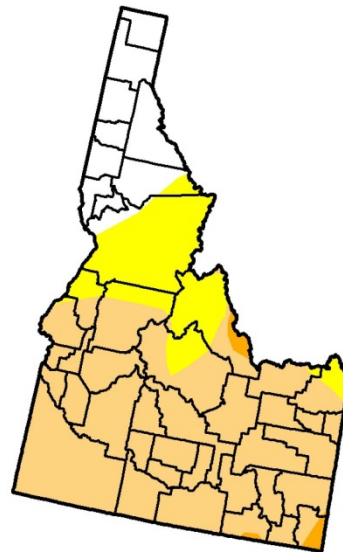
Idaho

September 4, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.72	84.28	66.17	1.33	0.00	0.00
Last Week (08/28/2012 map)	15.69	84.31	66.10	1.20	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (06/05/2012 map)	89.57	10.43	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	48.90	51.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	86.56	13.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (08/30/2011 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D1 Drought - Moderate	 D4 Drought - Exceptional
 D2 Drought - Severe	



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.*



Released Thursday, September 6, 2012
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

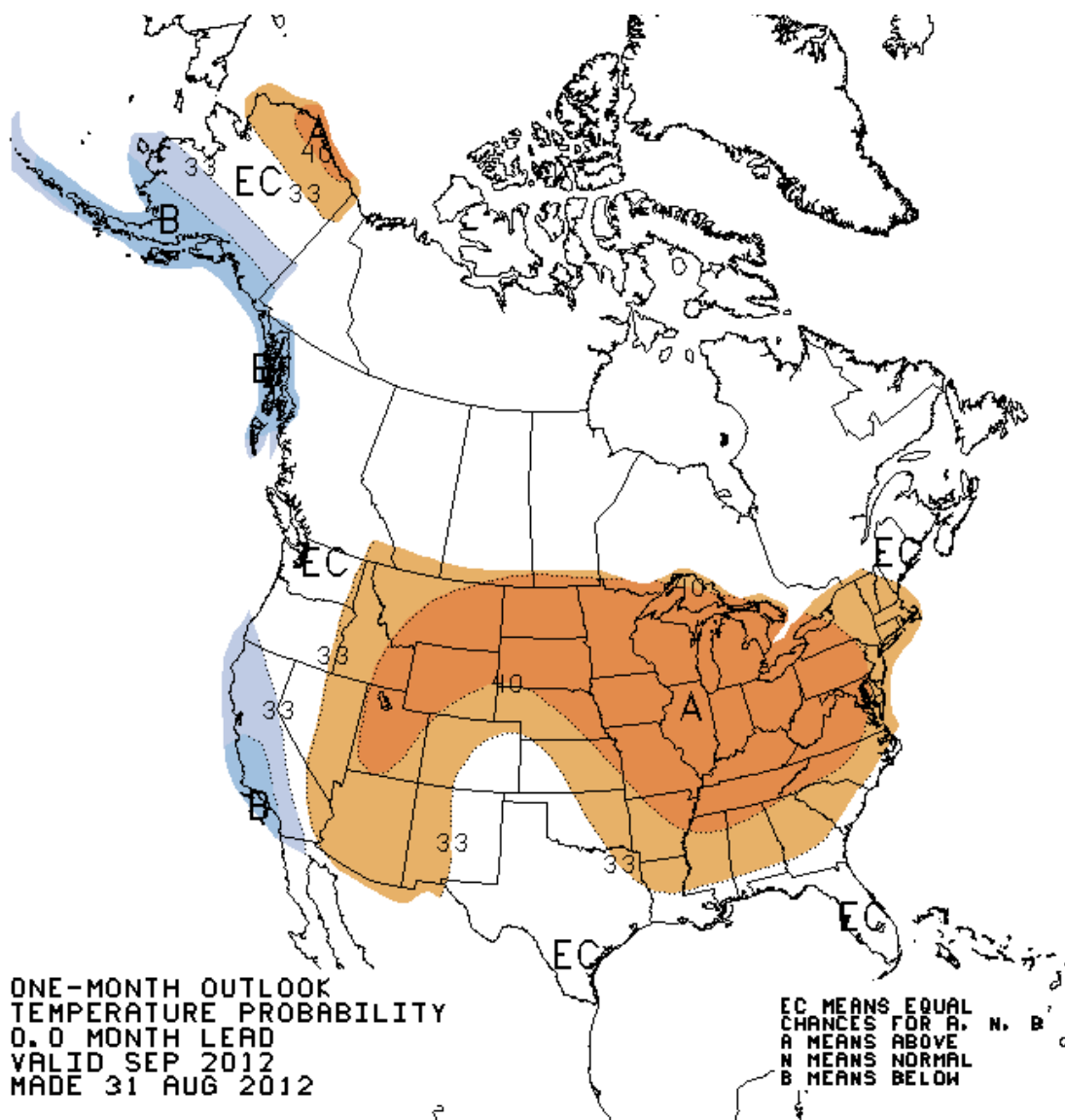
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Idaho Department of Water Resources Drought Emergency Declarations as of 9/11/12:

County / Area:

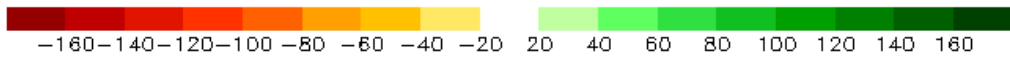
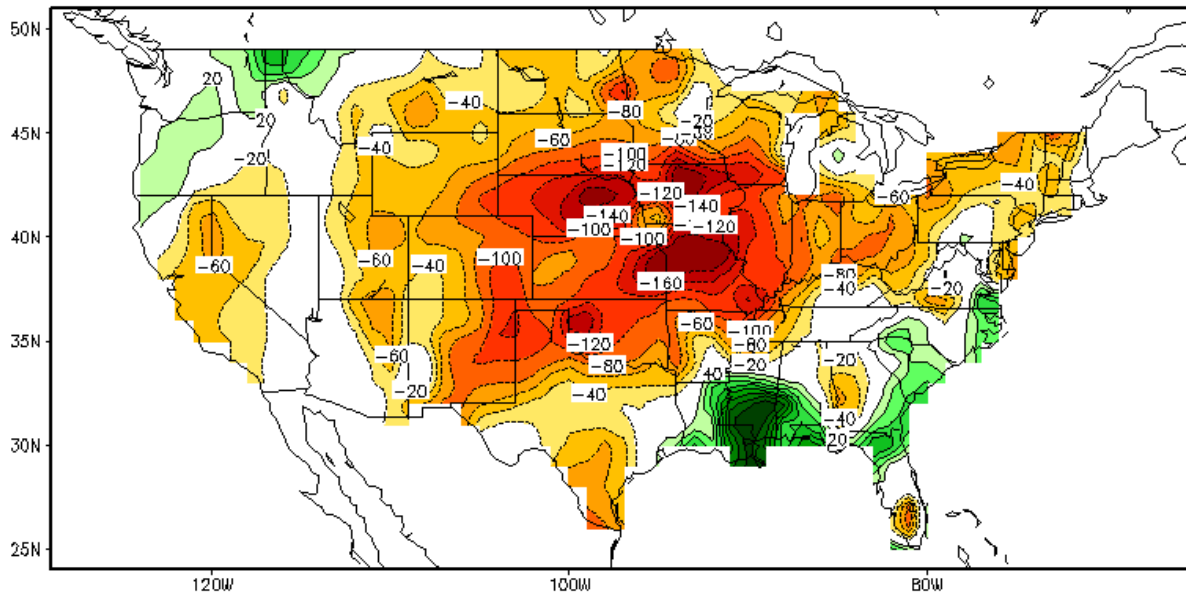
Date Declared:

- [Lemhi County](#) **August 15, 2012**
- [Bannock County](#) **August 11, 2012**
- [Teton County](#) **July 20, 2012**
- [Bear Lake County](#) **July 16, 2012**
- [Blaine County](#) **July 16, 2012**
- [Oneida County](#) **July 16, 2012**
- [Clark County](#) **May 16, 2012**



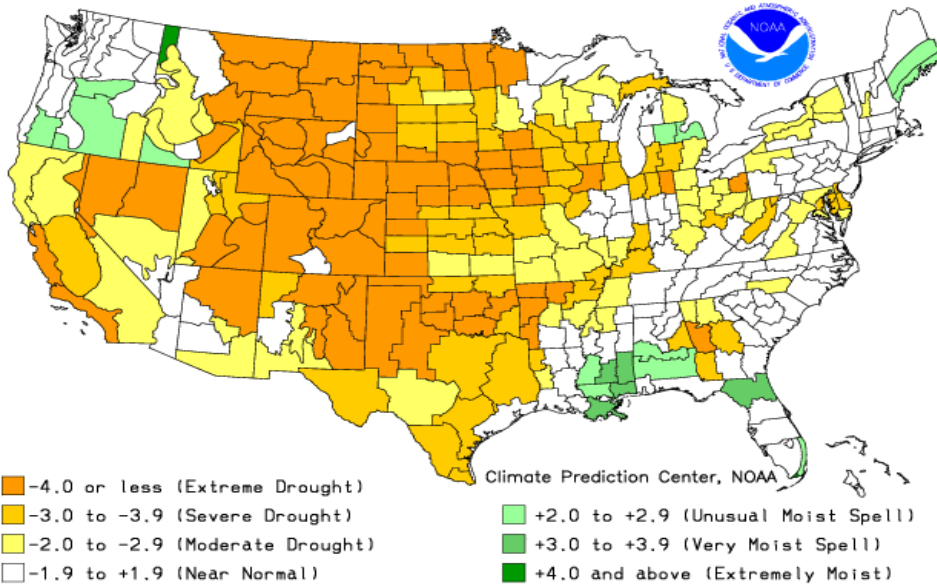
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/off15_temp.gif

Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) Last day of AUG, 2012



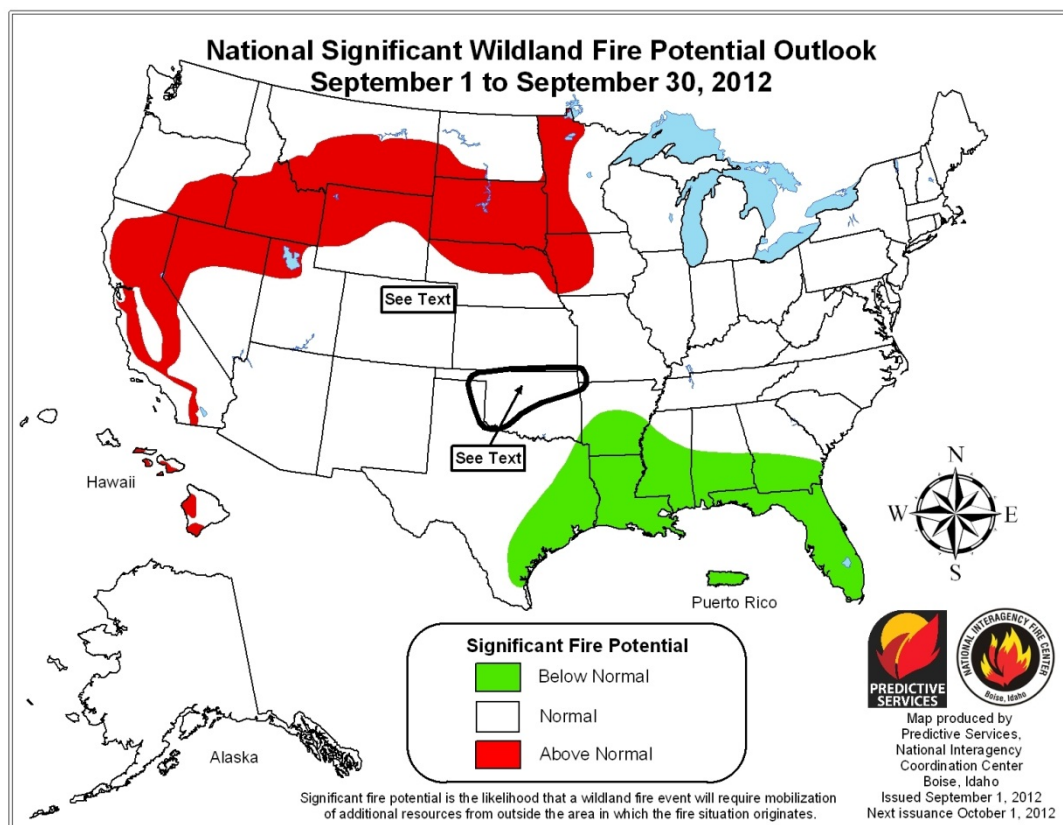
http://www.epc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/US/Soilmst/Soilmst.shtml#

Drought Severity Index by Division Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 8, 2012 Long Term Palmer

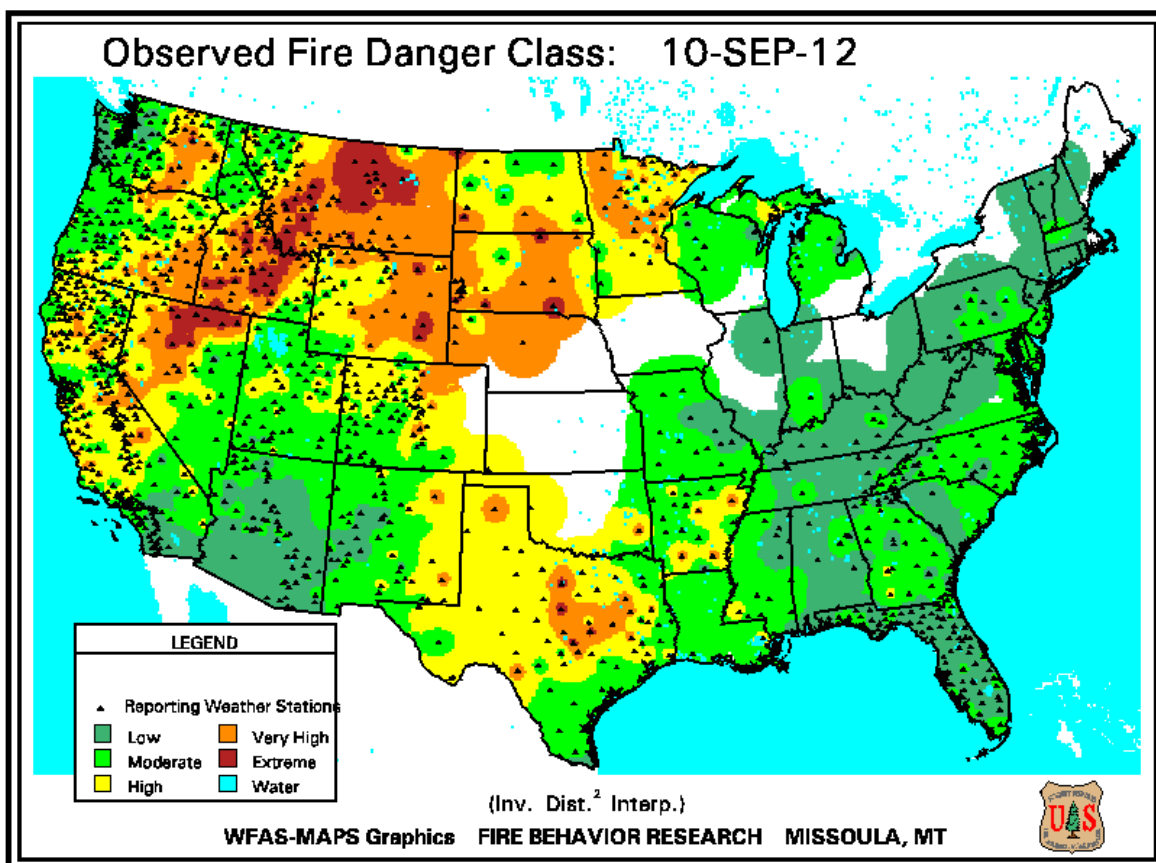


http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif

Fire Information:



http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly_outlook.jpg



http://www.wfas.net/images/firedanger/fd_class.png

Current Major Fires in HSA as of 9/11/12:

Mustang Complex, Salmon-Challis NF (4 fires). Three miles west of North Fork, ID. Timber, brush, grass. Currently at 281,560 acres.

Halstead, Salmon-Challis NF. Eighteen miles northwest of Stanley, ID. Timber and grass. Currently 151,820 acres.

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>

cc:

Mike Schaffner, Western Region HCSD
Harold Opitz, Hydrologist-in-Charge, Northwest River Forecast Center
Michelle Stokes, Hydrologist-in-Charge, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Hydrometeorological Information Center
Rick Dittmann, Meteorologist-in-Charge, Pocatello, Idaho
Troy Lindquist, Senior Service Hydrologist, Boise, Idaho
Brad Gillies, Hydrologist, Northwest River Forecast Center
Taylor Dixon, Hydrologist, Northwest River Forecast Center
Brent Bernard, Hydrologist, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center